

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 8 have been amended to recite the features from which they depend. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 10-28 and the indication that claims 3 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Page 5 of the Office Action states claims 3 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 3 and 8 to recite the features of claims 1 and 5, respectively in order to place the claims in independent form. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 8 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,967,872 issued to Betsui, *et al.* ("Betsui") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,952,782 issued to Nanto, *et al.* ("Nanto"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

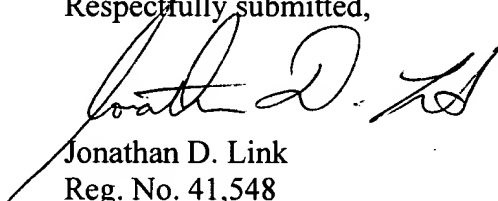
Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 9 have been canceled in this response. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 3, 8 and 10-28 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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